

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 EUR-08 INR-05

CIAE-00 PM-03 SP-02 L-01 DODE-00 IGA-02 MC-01

ACDA-10 /056 W

-----011798 301852Z /44

P R 300600Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5018

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KIGALI 815

LIMDIS

KINSHASA ALSO FOR DAO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, RW

SUBJECT: RWANDAN REQUEST FOR NONLETHAL MILITARY AID

REF KIGALI 638

1. AT MY SUGGESTION, PRES HABYARIMANA INVITED ME IN JUNE 28 TO DISCUSS RESULTS MY CONSULTATIONS IN ABIDJAN, MONROVIA, AND WASHINGTON DURING PAST SIX WEEKS. OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO HIM, OF COURSE, WAS WASHINGTON'S REACTION TO HIS REQUEST FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING (WHICH HE HAD REINFORCED BY SENDING SPECIAL DELEGATION TO WASHINGTON TO PURSUE REQUEST DURING MY CONSULTATIONS).

2. MEMCON BEING POUCHED TO ADDRESSEES RECOUNTS OUR DISCUSSION IN DETAIL, BOTH ON THIS SUBJECT AND ON "MACRO-DIMENSIONAL" ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. BRIEFLY, PRESIDENT AGAIN EMPHASIZED NON-BELLIGERENT, NATION-BUILDING
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CHARACTER OF REQUESTED MILITARY AID ("WHOM COULD RWANDA CONCEIVABLY ATTACK?") AND ON RWANDA'S INABILITY TO PAY CASH FOR EVEN MOST ELEMENTAL EQUIPMENT. HE INSISTED THAT LIST OF NEEDED EQUIPMENT, MEDICINES, AND TRAINING WAS MODEST AND THAT ASSISTANCE RECEIVED WOULD SERVE DEVELOPMENTAL AS WELL AS DEFENSE PURPOSES.

3. I OUTLINED RESULTS OF WASHINGTON DISCUSSIONS ALONG LINES SIMILAR TO THOSE GIVEN RWANDAN DEL BY DAS SEELYE, ADDING THAT AT SEELYE'S DIRECTION EXPLORATORY MEETINGS HAD BEEN HELD WITH BOTH T AND AID. I ADMITTED THAT, DESPITE MY INITIAL OPPOSITION TO DELEGATION VISIT, RWANDANS HAD MADE GOOD IMPRESSION AND PERSUASIVE CASE. I WARNED THAT CURRENT POLICY OBSTACLES TO ANY SUCH ASSISTANCE TO RWANDA REMAINED ENORMOUS, BUT REPORTED SYMPATHY IN WASHINGTON TO PLIGHT OF POOR COUNTRIES WITH NO DIRECT SECURITY SIGNIFICANCE FOR U.S. WHICH MUST NEVERTHELESS ASSURE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND WHOSE ARMED FORCES ALSO PLAY KEY DEVELOPMENT ROLE.

4. PRESIDENT SEEMED GRATIFIED, ALTHOUGH I WAS CAREFUL NOT TO FUEL HIS HOPES.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WE OWE GOR A FORMAL REPLY TO ITS NOTE OF MAY 17 ON THIS SUBJECT AND I PROPOSE USE THIS MEANS TO REITERATE WHAT I TOLD PRESIDENT VERBALLY (AND WHAT RWANDANS TOLD IN WASHINGTON). DRAFT NOTE FOR WASHINGTON'S CONSIDERATION BEING SENT SEPTEL. REQUEST IT BE GIVEN DEPT'S PRIORITY CONSIDERATION.
CRIGLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY EQUIPMENT, MILITARY TRAINING, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 30-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KIGALI00815
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770234-0281
Format: TEL
From: KIGALI
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977064/aaaaacsd.tel
Line Count: 83
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8572e779-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 77 KIGALI 638
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2094391
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RWANDAN REQUEST FOR NONLETHAL MILITARY AID
TAGS: MASS, RW, (HABYARIMANA, JUVENAL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8572e779-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009